

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please ADD claims 11-19, as follows.

1. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - an engine control part for controlling an engine;
 - a controller part connected in a communicable manner to said engine control part;
 - print scheduling means for setting a schedule of a print operation for every material for recording from said controller part to said engine control part;
 - a recording material discharging device control part connected in the communicable manner to said controller part and serving to control a recording material discharging device for discharging the recording material to outside;
 - recording material discharging schedule operation means for setting a schedule of a recording material discharging operation from said controller part to said recording material discharging device control part;
 - recording material discharging interval notifying means for notifying said controller part of a recording material discharging interval till said recording material discharging device becomes receivable of the recording material next time when said recording material discharging schedule operation means sets the schedule of the recording material discharging operation for said recording material discharging device control part; and
 - recording material discharging interval designation means for notifying said engine control part of information about the recording material discharging interval of which said

recording material discharging interval notifying means has notified, from said controller part,
wherein said engine control part sets the recording material discharging
interval designated by said recording material discharging interval designation means as a
recording material discharging interval from the recording material discharged by said recording
material discharging device last time, and determines a print operation start timing in
consideration of the designated recording material discharging interval and, in the case of
performing the print operation for a different sheet discharging port after discharging the
recording material to said recording material discharging device last time, a time expended for
this print operation.

2. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the recording material discharging interval designated by said recording material discharging
interval designation means is effective in the recording material scheduled by said print schedule
means after said recording material discharging interval designation means has designated the
recording material discharging interval.

3. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an engine control part for controlling an engine;
a controller part connected in a communicable manner to said engine control
part;
print scheduling means for setting a schedule of a print operation for every
material for recording from said controller part to said engine control part;

a recording material supplying device control part connected in the communicable manner to said controller part and serving to control a recording material supplying device for supplying the recording material;

recording material supplying schedule operation means for setting a schedule of a recording material supplying operation from said controller part to said recording material supplying device control part;

recording material supplying interval notifying means for notifying said controller part of a recording material supplying interval till the recording material can be supplied next time when said recording material supplying schedule operation means sets the schedule of the recording material supplying operation for said recording material supplying device control part; and

recording material supplying interval designation means for notifying said engine control part of information about the recording material supplying interval of which said recording material supplying interval notifying means has notified, from said controller part,

wherein said engine control part sets the recording material supplying interval designed by said recording material supplying interval designation means as a recording material supplying interval from the recording material supplied from said recording material supplying device last time, and determines a print operation start timing.

4. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the recording material supplying interval designated by said recording material supplying interval designation means is effective in the recording material scheduled by said print schedule means

after said recording material supplying interval designation means has designated the recording material supplying interval.

5. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an engine control part for controlling an engine;
a controller part connected in a communicable manner to said engine control part;

print scheduling means for setting a schedule of a print operation for every material for recording from said controller part to said engine control part;

a recording material discharging device control part connected in the communicable manner to said controller part and serving to control a recording material discharging device for discharging the recording material to outside;

recording material discharging schedule operation means for setting a schedule of a recording material discharging operation from said controller to said recording material discharging device control part;

recording material discharging interval notifying means for notifying said controller part of a recording material discharging interval till the recording material becomes receivable next time when said recording material discharging schedule operation means sets the schedule of the recording material discharging operation for said recording material discharging device control part;

recording material discharging interval designation means for notifying said engine control part of information about the recording material discharging interval of which said

recording material discharging interval notifying means has notified, from said controller part;

a recording material supplying device control part connected in the communicable manner to said controller part and serving to control a recording material supplying device for supplying the recording material;

recording material supplying schedule operation means for setting a schedule of a recording material supplying operation from said controller part to said recording material supplying device control part;

recording material supplying interval notifying means for notifying said controller part of a recording material supplying interval till the recording material can be supplied next time when said recording material supplying schedule operation means sets the schedule of the recording material supplying operation for said recording material supplying device control part; and

recording material supplying interval designation means for notifying said engine control part of information about the recording material supplying interval of which said recording material supplying interval notifying means has notified, from said controller part,

wherein said engine control part determines a print operation start timing on the basis of the recording material supplying interval designated by said recording material supplying interval designation means and the recording material discharging interval designated by said recording material discharging interval designation means.

6. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the recording material discharging interval designated by said recording material discharging

interval designation means is effective in the recording material scheduled by said print schedule means after said recording material discharging interval designation means has designated the recording material discharging interval, and

said engine control part sets the recording material discharging interval designated by said recording material discharging interval designation means as a recording material discharging interval from the recording material discharged by said recording material discharging device last time, and determines a print operation start timing in consideration of, in the case of performing the print operation for a different sheet discharging port after discharging the recording material to said recording material discharging device last time, a time expended for performing the print operation for the different sheet discharging port after discharging the recording material to said recording material discharging device last time and the designated recording material discharging interval.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the recording material supplying interval designated by said recording material supplying interval designation means is effective in the recording material schedule by said print schedule means after said recording material supplying interval designation means has designated the recording material supplying interval.

8. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein if said recording material discharging interval designation means and said recording material supplying interval designation means designates the recording material discharging interval and

the recording material supplying interval for the same recording material, said engine control part starts the print operation at a timing that meets both of conditions of the designated recording material discharging interval and the of the designated recording material supplying interval.

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein if said recording material discharging interval designation means and said recording material supplying interval designation means designate the recording material discharging interval and the recording material supplying interval for the same recording material, said engine control part starts the print operation at a timing that meets both of conditions of the designated recording material discharging interval and of the designated recording material supplying interval.

10. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein if said recording material discharging interval designation means and said recording material supplying interval designation means designate the recording material discharging interval and the recording material supplying interval for the same recording material, said engine control part starts the print operation at a timing that meets both of conditions of the designated recording material discharging interval and of the designated recording material supplying interval.

11. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a communication unit which receives interval information to give designation of an execution of processing of recording material to a recording material processing apparatus which supplies recording material to said image forming apparatus or receives recording material

discharged from said image forming apparatus, and be output from a recording material processing apparatus in response to the designation of the execution of the processing, the interval information being related to a time period which the recording material processing apparatus can supply or receive the recording material after a previous processing of recording material; and

a control part for controlling recording material which controls a timing of a sheet feeding, wherein said control part, in a case that recording material which is to be supplied to or received from said recording material processing apparatus is fed with following the recording material to which the designation of the execution of processing is gave, controls a timing to feed recording material after the sheet feeding of the recording material to which the designation of the execution of processing is gave after a time according to the information interval, and in a case that recording material which is not to be supplied to or received from said recording material processing apparatus is fed with following the recording material to which the designation of the execution of processing is gave, before a time according to the information interval said engine control part allows feeding of recording material.

12. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the recording material processing apparatus supplies stacked recording materials to said image forming apparatus sheet-by-sheet.

13. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the recording material processing apparatus receives recording material discharged from said image

forming apparatus.

14. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the recording material processing apparatus staples the recording material which the recording material processing apparatus receives.

15. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said image forming part includes an engine part and an image signal output part which outputs an image signal to said engine part.

16. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said control part includes an engine control part included in the engine part and a controller part included in said image signal output part.

17. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the interval information is transmitted from said controller part to said engine control part, wherein the engine control part, in a case that recording material which is to be supplied to or received from said recording material processing apparatus is fed with following the recording material to which the designation of the execution of processing is gave, controls a timing to feed recording material after the sheet feeding of the recording material to which the designation of the execution of processing is gave and a time according to the information interval, and wherein in a case that recording material which is not to be supplied to or received from said

recording material processing apparatus is fed, with following the recording material to which the execution of processing is gave, said engine control part allows feeding of recording material before a time according to the information interval.

18. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein designation of print operation is respectively gave from the controller part to said engine control part for each of sheets of recording material, and the designation of print operation is effected after the interval information is transmitted to the engine control part.

19. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein, in a case that recording material which is not processed by said recording material processing apparatus after recording material which is to be supplied to or received from said recording material processing apparatus is fed, said engine control part controls a timing of feeding recording material which is to be supplied to or received from said recording material processing apparatus, based on the interval information and a time period in which print operation of the recording material not processed by said recording material processing apparatus.